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APRIL 5.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M. D., in the Chair.

Seventeen persons present.

The death of Oliver A. Judson, M. D., a member, was announced.

APRIL 12.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M. D., in the Chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

PROF. PILSBRY made a communication on the natural history of slugs. (No abstract.)

APRIL 19.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M. D., in the Chair.

Nineteen persons present.

The Function of the Radula.—MR. H. A. PILSBRY spoke of a radula of the gastropod *Nerita peloronta* exhibited by Mr. Keely, mentioning its great length compared to that of the animal, and the large number of similar teeth at the margins. The modifications found by Fischer in the radula of *Neritopsis* and by the speaker in that of *Orthomesus* and the Helicidæ indicate that specialization in the Rhipidoglossa and Pulmonata has proceeded from the median line of the radula outward, the outer teeth being the last to be modified, and therefore of value as indicating the ancestral condition; this mode of modification being probably the result of the greater functional activity of the median portion in feeding, due to the rounded shape of the subradular cartilage.

MR. CALVERT stated that the position of the radula in squids recently dissected by him seemed to preclude the use of that organ as a rasp, as described for snails.

MR. PILSBRY replied that he had not observed any cephalopod feeding, but supposed that the radula here acted as an aid to deglutition, crowding the fragments, taken in the beak, down the œsophagus.

DR. CHAPMAN observed that he had often observed squids eating fish, and the beaks alone were used to bite the prey. He further alluded to the impossibility of keeping squids in aquaria owing to their incessant activity. They constantly dart against the glass and soon die from the mutilation ensuing.